

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the references cited with the *Information Disclosure Statement* filed July 7, 2005.

Status of the Application

Claims 1-11, 17-23, 43, 45, 49-82, 86-90, 95-102 and 108-133 are all the claims pending in the Application, as claim 133 is hereby added. Claims 17, 19-23 and 43 stand rejected.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 1-11, 43, 45, 49-82, 86-90, 95-102 and 108-132 are allowed.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claim 18 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. However, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner hold in abeyance such rewriting until the Examiner has had an opportunity to reconsider (and withdraw) the prior art rejection of the other claims.

Additionally, Applicants hereby add new independent claim 133, which corresponds to current claim 18 written in independent form. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 133 is immediately allowable.

Anticipation Rejection

The Examiner has rejected claims 17, 19-23 and 43 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by *Kobayashi et al.* (JP Hei. 11-005311A; hereinafter “*JP ‘311*”). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 17

Applicants respectfully submit that *JP '311* fails to teach or suggest independent claim 17's recitation that "the ink outlet port and the pressurized air inlet port are arranged on the same front wall of the cartridge case." In contrast, *JP '311* discloses an ink container 110 having an ink feed zone 111 and a vent hole 113 on opposite walls.

Claim 43

Applicants respectfully submit that *JP '311* fails to teach or suggest, *inter alia*, "at least one slit formed through the second case at a location corresponding to the location of the lug-shaped member."

The Examiner alleges that the recited "slit" is somehow equivalent to packing 115 and/or open end 121 of *JP 311*'s ink container 110.

Applicants respectfully disagree. As noted above, element 115 is a packing, and element 121 is an open end of an inner container 120 that is formed of a flexible thin film or thin rubber. The combination of packing 115 and open end 121 are clamped and held between first and second containers 112 and 114 when the containers are coupled together. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that there is no discernable "slit" in the area of packing 115 and open end 121.

Further, even if there was some kind of gap or "slit" created by packing 115 and open end 121 of *JP '311*, such a gap could not be reasonably read as being "formed through the second case," as the gap is only created when the first and second containers 112 and 114 are coupled

together (*i.e.*, both containers 112 and 114, rather than only one of the containers, form the alleged gap).

As a matter of further explanation regarding the recited “slit,” Applicants direct the Examiner to p. 62, line 13 through p. 63, line 4. This further explanation is intended only for the Examiner’s understanding, and should not be read as limiting the scope of the claims in any way.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 17 and 43 are patentable over the applied reference. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that rejected dependent claims 19-23 are allowable, *at least* by virtue of their dependency.

Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw this rejection.

New Claims

Claims 133 are hereby added, as discussed above.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-11, 17-23, 43, 45, 49-82, 86-90, 95-102 and 108-133 are allowable. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the application now is in condition for allowance with all of the claims 1-11, 17-23, 43, 45, 49-82, 86-90, 95-102 and 108-133.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No.: 09/765,411

Attorney Docket # Q62798

Please charge any fees which may be required to maintain the pendency of this application, except for the Issue Fee, to our Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,



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